



PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Human Resources

Maryland's Human Services Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

State Employees Join Habitat for Humanity to Improve the Lives of Families in West Baltimore

The Long-Term Partnership Going Strong in the Ninth Year

Baltimore (July 10, 2008) – For the next week, human service experts, policy makers and agency executives will trade their telephones, computers and blackberries for hammers, saws, and paint brushes. Department of Human Resources' Secretary, Brenda Donald, along with over 100 employees will be working in partnership with the Sandtown Habitat for Humanity organization to renovate and dedicate a completed home to a needy West Baltimore family.

This is an annual DHR commitment with many of the same employees participating each of the last nine years. Team DHR will be working on over 16 properties in the Sandtown area, including 4 landscaping projects.

This marks the second year that DHR Secretary Donald will swing a hammer and lead DHR employees from around the State in this worthy cause. "The concept of mobilizing citizens to help others realize the dream of home ownership is amazing," said Secretary Donald. "I am excited to volunteer my time and to have my staff play a significant role in this potentially life changing effort. We are realizing our mission —"to aggressively pursue opportunities to assist people in economic need"— when we partner with community organizations like Sandtown Habitat for Humanity."

Team DHR will join other volunteers when the Director of Sandtown Habitat for Humanity presents the house keys to a new home owner on Friday, June 27, 2008 at 3 pm at 1430 Mount Street. The media is invited to attend.

The Sandtown Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian housing organization in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of West Baltimore. It rebuilds vacant housing in Sandtown, increases homeownership and improves the health of the community. The Sandtown Habitat uses mostly volunteer labor and private funding. It sells the completed homes at cost to low-income families on a 20-year mortgage, with no interest charged. Payments go into a revolving fund, which in turn helps to finance other homes in the community.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary